NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025

23UEN52 — INTRODUCTION TO FOLK LITERATURE

Shanmuga Industries Arts & Science College
T.V.Malai

Time : Three hours Maximum : 75 marks

SECTION A — (10 × 2 = 20 marks)

Answer ALL questions.

1. What is folk literature?
2. Where did the concept of folklore originate?
3. List any two major forms of folk literature.
4. What is a folk ballad?
5. Who is Max Muller in folklore studies?
6. Name any two approaches to the study of folklore.
7. What is the central theme of 'La Belle Dame Sans Merci'?
8. What superstition is presented in 'The Eve of St. Agnes'?
9. Who is Hayavadana in Karnad's play?
10. State the central theme of 'Hayavadana.'

SECTION B — (5 × 5 = 25 marks)

Answer ALL questions.

11. (a) Explain two characteristics of folk literature.

Or

(b) How is folk literature different from written literature?

12. (a) Differentiate between a myth and a legend.

Or

(b) Explain the role of proverbs in folk literature.

13. (a) Briefly discuss V.J. Propp's contribution to folk studies.

Or

(b) Explain the anthropological approach to folklore.

14. (a) How does 'La Belle Dame Sans Merci' represent the femme fatale motif?

Or

(b) Summarize the message of 'The Soothsayer's Son.'

15. (a) How does Karnad use folklore elements in 'Hayavadana'?

Or

(b) Discuss the symbolic role of Hayavadana's transformation.

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SECTION C — (3 × 10 = 30 marks)

Answer any THREE questions.

16. Discuss the origin and development of folk literature.

17. Describe and illustrate the major forms of folk literature.

18. Assess the different approaches to folklore study, citing example scholars.

19. Assess how folk motifs and superstitions are adapted in Keats' poetry and South Indian folktales.

20. Critically analyze Karnad's 'Hayavadana' in the context of folk literature and identity.

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